

City of Copperas Cove Information Item

August 2, 2013

Brush Program Update Report

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SUBJECT: Brush Program Report.

1. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Call-In Brush Program.

2. BACKGROUND/HISTORY

On April 1, 2013 the Call-In Brush Program was implemented. Residents were informed of the new Call-In Brush Program by placing notices in the newspaper, on the City's website, Facebook page, via utility email distribution, on the electronic bill board, on utility bills, and posted at several City Buildings.

3. FINDINGS/CURRENT ACTIVITY

A majority of the residents are not fully utilizing the On-Call Brush Program. The compliant citizens appear to be frustrated with the majority not utilizing the new program. The lack of cooperation by the majority may contribute to an increase in the number of fire hazards, rodents, snakes, and unsafe environment. In addition, the lack of participation is creating an undesirable neighborhood image in the City. Solid Waste has also discovered some residents opting to discard brush piles in City streets or at vacant properties.

For the month of June, the City Manager requested a city wide brush clean up to ensure unsafe conditions throughout the City were abated. After the Solid Waste Department completed collection on the requested brush pick up list, the drivers went into all other areas to collect any brush left out by residents. To assist with keeping a record for the allowed three (3) free brush collections per resident, all stops were logged in by date, address, and area.

The additional collections resulted in several residents calling the Solid Waste Department to complain about the collection being made without a request. The stated reasons was they were waiting to have a full 8 cubic yards before contacting Solid Waste for collection.

During the month of June, the Solid Waste Department completed 1026 stops. That number is an average of 51 stops per day. Three (3) trucks provided service for ten (10) days, utilizing overtime to complete the task. For the previous month of May, the department completed 592 stops which is an average of 27 stops per day.

4. FINANCIAL IMPACT

The additional stops resulted in more fuel being used for the vehicles. The fuel increased from 943 gallons in May to 995 gallons used in June. Using (3) trucks put additional wear and tear on the trucks and overtime was utilized to complete the service at a cost of \$491.02.